



REMARKS

As a result of the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the recitation of original claim 3. In addition, it has been modified to recite that the oil based ink is fixed by heating as disclosed at page 16, lines 1-4 of the original specification, that the image receiving layer of the printing plate is a hydrophilic layer, and that the oil based ink comprises electroscopic particles in accordance with the original disclosure of page 45 – 46.

It is noted that this application is a continuation of parent application serial number 09/396,238, filed September 15, 1999. It is further noted that the claims of the present application were rejected over a number of references including Kato et al JP '355, Love US'340, Adler EP '648, Masaaki JP '373, Arway, et al US'712, Ikkatai '132, Gasparrini '015, and Miura et al '782. All of the rejections of the claims inherently involve both the Kato et al JP '355 and the Love US '340 patents. It is submitted that the rejections utilizing these two primary references is no longer appropriate with respect to the claims as amended. Thus, in the present invention, the oil-based ink image which has been image drawn is subjected to heat fixation to obtain a printing plate having a high image quality. This is in accordance with the original disclosure at pages 9-14 and 16.

Neither Love nor Kato et al describe or suggest such a method. Thus, Love discloses that an oil-soluble ink may be used and that a printing plate precursor is formed on a cylinder. However, this is merely a disclosure of various image drawing methods. There is simply no motivation in either of these references to use

the specific ink recited in the present claims. Moreover, Kato et al contains no suggestion as to the formation of the printing plate by the arm press system.

With the present invention, an ink jet recording method using an electrostatic field is used and after the image drawing is carried out with the oil-soluble ink which contains charged particles, the heat fixation step required by the claims is carried out to form a printing plate having a high image quality.

Accordingly, this art does not provide a basis for a rejection of these claims. Entry of the foregoing amendment and prompt action on the merits are earnestly solicited.

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